

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 17, with the following amended paragraph:

A funnel, preferably conical in configuration, ~~forms~~ is connected with the lower end of the tubing string.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 19, with the following amended paragraph:

The funnel widens downwardly and outwardly to approach the inside surface of the casing string and combines therewith to form a narrow gap for connecting the lower end of the bore of the casing string with a lower portion of the annulus described hereinbelow. The gap is preferably annular in configuration. The internal, longitudinal passageway of the funnel and the longitudinal bore of the tubing string combine to form an open-bottomed production bore.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 1, with the following amended paragraph:

A packer is mounted on the tubing string above the funnel. The packer functions to seal against the casing string to isolate ~~the~~ a lower portion of the annulus beneath the packer from the upper portion of the annulus above the packer.

Please insert the following new paragraph on page 3, following original line 3:

The outside surface of the funnel, the outside surface of the tubing string beneath the packer, the base of the packer and the inside surface of the casing string combine to form the lower portion of the annulus. The annular gap provides communication between the bottom of the well bore and the annulus lower portion.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 5, with the following amended paragraph:

A-Conduit means, such as a tube, supported by the structural unit, connects the lower portion of the annulus with the production bore. More particularly, the tube has an

inlet that communicates with the upper end of the lower portion of the annulus and an ~~upwardly directed~~ outlet that communicates with the production bore. Preferably the outlet is an upwardly directed, restrictive orifice. The tube functions to convey pressurized gas from the annulus lower portion into the production bore.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 10, with the following amended paragraph:

In use, the bottom of the funnel is preferably positioned close to and above the perforations. Produced water will accumulate in the bottom of the casing bore and will rise to cover the base of the funnel side wall. Gas separates from the water ~~in the casing bore~~, passes through the annular gap and rises to accumulate as a column in the upper end of the annulus lower portion, extending down from the packer. As gas pressure in the lower portion of the annulus increases, water above the bottom rim of the funnel is may be displaced into the production bore, where it joins water and gas that have traveled from the perforations into the production bore. The flow of water and gas passing through the narrowing funnel passageway accelerates, has increasing turbulence and tends to hold contained solids in suspension. ~~At the same time, gas~~ Gas under pressure flows from the upper end of the lower portion of annulus, through the tube bore, and is discharged as a jet into the production bore. This gas functions to assist in gas lifting water through the production bore to ground surface. The gas and water rise through the production bore in the form of discrete slugs.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 1, with the following amended paragraph:

Broadly stated, the invention comprises an apparatus for assisting in producing gas and water to ground surface from a subterranean formation through a flowing well having a tubular production casing string forming a longitudinal bore and having perforations in fluid communication with the formation, comprising: a tubular production tubing string forming a longitudinal bore and extending down the casing string from ground surface; a funnel ~~forming~~ connected with the lower end of the tubing string, the funnel having a bottom inlet and a longitudinal passageway extending therethrough; the tubing string bore and the funnel passageway combining to form a production bore; the casing and tubing strings

forming an annulus therebetween; packer means, mounted on the tubing string above the funnel, for sealing against the casing string to isolate the lower portion of the annulus beneath the packer means from the upper portion of the annulus above the packer means; the tubing string, funnel and packer means combining to form a structural unit; and a tube the funnel extending downwardly and outwardly from the lower end of the tubing string to combine with the casing string to form a gap providing a passageway for fluid movement between the lower end of the casing string bore and the annulus lower portion; and conduit means, carried by the structural unit, having an inlet communicating with the upper end of the annulus lower portion and an upwardly directed outlet communicating with the production bore, for conveying pressurized gas from the annulus lower portion into the production bore so that, in use, gas separates and accumulates as a column beneath the packer in the annulus lower portion and displaces water from said annulus lower portion into the production bore and gas travels from the column through the tube and is discharged upwardly into the production bore for gas lifting water to ground surface through the production bore.